

## **Clean Air Initiatives for Government Entities Meeting**

**April 30, 2003**

**2:00 pm**

### **Attending:**

Lori Johnson (DHEC), Michael Monroe (DHEC), Melinda Mathias (DHEC), Frank Cramer (DHEC), Jeff McCormack (B&CB State Fleet Management), John Gardener (SC DOT), LeAnn Herren (USC/Clean Cities), Tricia Tangney (Energy Office), Henry Phillips (DHEC), Tonya Lott (DHEC), Tommy Fallow (B&CB OGS) Michelle Ransom (Central Midlands COG), Don Tudor (Dept. of Education), Marshall Casey (Dept. of Education), Wendy Bell (Catawba COG), David Burgess (SC DOT).

### **Discussion:**

Update on the Executive Order. Hold due to Joint Resolution.

The Joint Resolution was passed from the AG Subcommittee of the House. Now back to the House it goes ...

Melinda Mathias gave an update on the Ozone Early Action Plan.

Frank spoke on his finding with the GA State Prison System Environmental Initiative. A few basic 4 steps: 1) Study the prison. There is a lot you can do with conserving water and electricity. 2) Education and assessment input. Most of the ideas came from employees. Currently they use natural gas but looking into wood fuel (though its dirtier). They also did lots of lighting retrofits by partnering with their Energy Office. They also installed low-flow faucets. Possible to get our prison(s) involved with something similar. Could partner with our Energy Office for a loan. SC's Energy Office does energy audits for state entities (including schools and non-profits). LeAnn Herren mentioned Capsugel. These are reused clear garbage bags that the prison crews use to gather garbage. LeAnn mentioned that our Dept. of Corrections could be a good pilot for any thing we come up with. She was going to look into finding some names/contacts.

Michael began the discussion on the Texas Adopt-A-School bus Program. Could this be a good idea for SC to try? In Texas's program they include an anti-idling policy that states that busses may not idle for more than 15 minutes. Don Tudor mentioned that there is already an idling policy for SC that says that a bus cannot be idling unless someone is sitting in it, and that busses are not to idle while waiting on children. Go to <http://www.myschools.com/offices/trn> then click on Information - then memorandum...it is somewhere there. Don also mentioned that this type of program works best in large urban areas with large corporations who will buy into it...he did not seem to believe that the Columbia area was large enough. If it is done, there must be a non-profit involved to handle the money (American Lung Assoc. or something like it). You can accomplish more by replacing the busses instead of retrofitting them. A retrofit can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$12,000. Only 1999-2000 model busses have true electronic control (most capable for retrofit). A new CNG bus costs about \$120,000. A diesel bus costs

around \$60,000. A hybrid bus costs about \$600,000 – NYC is currently testing them (part of a CARB study relating hybrids to diesel/fuels). EPA now has grant money for school busses. A NC/SC proposal is in the works. It is a multi-state project for approximately \$20 million. The bigger a project, the better.

A *DRAFT* of an Air Pollution Reduction Policy was passed out. It is an example of how DHEC and other agencies can be proactive and lead by example.

Tommy mentioned the rules/guidelines that their office is working on. There is a study on landscape designs for Energy Efficiency (E2). It is mostly for residential areas – it would be good to try to integrate some of it for state agency use, or make one of their own. The grounds keeping sections will try to be ozone responsive. Currently right now all equipment is mostly 2-cycle – will try to purchase cleaner burning equipment in the future.

David from the SC DOT mentioned putting together a vanpool for state employees who travel downtown. They will distribute a survey to all state agencies to gather their information. This will be a pilot project and wanted to share ideas with our TABFTE program. They also plan to look at HOV lanes in SC.

DSS currently has a telecommuting program. We should include DSS in our group. They used funding from the SC Energy Office to assist their program.